



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR BARBARA O'BRIEN

VOLUME VI

WINTER 2009

ISSUE IV

Upcoming Dates

Commission Meeting

Friday, December 11
Johnson & Wales
University

**Commission Meeting
(Conference Call)**
Friday, January 8

**MLK Humanitarian
Awards Banquet**
Sunday, January 12

**Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr.
Day of Service**
Monday, January 18

**National
Mentoring Day**
Thursday, January
21

**MLK Unity Training
& United We Serve
Awards**
Thursday, January
21

**Cesar Chavez
Day of Service**
Friday, March 26



**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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WWW.COLORADO.GOV/GCCS

Large Turnout for the 2009 State Service Conference

The 2009 Colorado State Service Conference was held October 12th and 13th in Estes Park, CO at the YMCA of the Rockies. This year's Service Conference theme was *The Spirit Of AmeriCorps LIFE*, playing off of the board game, *The Game of LIFE*.

The Conference surpassed previous years' attendance with over 375 participants. Conference attendance averaged just over 300 participants in 2007 and 2008. The increased participation was due to increased awareness of AmeriCorps programs in Colorado and additional AmeriCorps resources provided through both the Recovery Act and the Kennedy Serve America Act.



This was the 15th year that the Governor's Commission on Community Service hosted the Colorado State Service Conference. The Conference Planning Committee began working on the conference with a focus on promoting AmeriCorps national identity amongst the conference participants. Increased efforts were made to foster more inter-Corps and inter-program interaction, standardize the training sessions, and improve the quality of learning opportunities. Members attended sessions about how they are a part of the national service movement, civic engagement, community building, and career development.

The AmeriCorps members also participated in a service project as a part of the conference this year. They built a new walking/running trail on the grounds of the YMCA in Estes Park. The trail has been a need of the YMCA for some time. It now allows visitors to access an area of the campus in which was previously hazardous to travel. Participants unofficially named the project "AmeriCorps leaves its mark on Estes Park."

"BUILDING A CULTURE OF CITIZENSHIP, SERVICE, AND RESPONSIBILITY IN COLORADO"



BILL RITTER JR.
GOVERNOR



BARBARA O'BRIEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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SERVICE PROJECT
COORDINATOR VISTA

ELE MEYERS
WORKFORCE CENTER
COORDINATOR VISTA

Colorado Prepares for the 2010 Martin Luther Jr. Day of Service

Fueled by President Obama's call to service and the historic level of participation in the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service with over 13,000 projects across the country; the Colorado Governor's Commission on Community Service has begun early preparation for the MLK Jr. Day of Service which will take place Monday, January 18, 2010.

In honor of Martin Luther King's life and legacy, and his personal dedication to service, Congress passed an initiative in 1994, encouraging the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday to be observed as a National Day of Service. The aim is to make the holiday "a day ON, not a day off," where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King envisioned.

The Metro Denver Martin Luther King Jr. Day events also include:

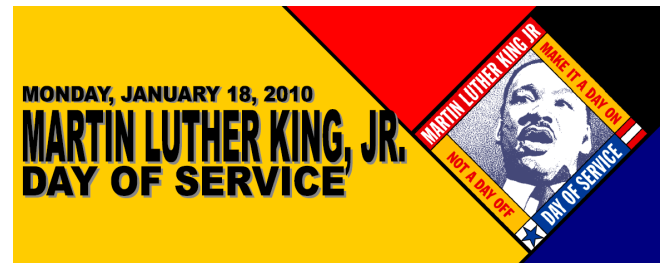
January 12- The Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Awards and Colorado Symphony Orchestra Concert

January 15- Martin Luther King Jr. Business Social Responsibility Awards

January 18- The City and County of Denver MLK Jr. Parade

January 21- The Federal MLK Annual Unity Training & United We Serve Awards Presentation

Project registration is currently open and will remain available until the Day of Service at www.colorado.gov/gccs. Projects will also be listed on the site. For more information, please contact Service Project Coordinator Meaghan Mills at meaghan.mills@state.co.us.



AmeriCorps Program Staff Prepare for the 2010 Southwest Cluster Conference

The 2010 Southwest Cluster Conference will be held in Dallas, Texas on March 2-4, 2010. The purpose of the 2010 event is to support and strengthen State Commission staff, AmeriCorps State and National grantee staff, sub-grantee staffs, and site staff. The Southwest cluster is comprised of programs operating in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.



The Colorado Governor's Commission on Community Service is a member of this year's planning committee. The committee is working hard to ensure that workshops and training sessions will benefit AmeriCorps programs.

In September, many program staff members filled out an online survey to assist the planning committee in designing a conference that will meet program management needs.

For more information about the Conference, contact Mark Skinner at mark.skinner@state.co.us.

Colorado State VISTA Program Update



Just starting
into its fourth
quarter, the
Colorado State
VISTA Program
(CSV) has

exceeded the program's expectations and is on track with project goals. Between July 1st and September 30th, CSV VISTAs have recruited over 15,000 volunteers who have completed over 50,000 hours of community service. VISTA members have also secured \$6,300 worth of in-kind donations for their programs.

Among the accomplishments made by CSV this quarter, perhaps the two with the most widespread impact were Make a Difference Day and the H1N1 vaccination clinics. United Way of Larimer County (UWLC) headed up the efforts for Make a Difference Day. Amanda Helfer is the Poverty Alleviation Specialist VISTA at UWLC. She directly had a hand in over 4,000 volunteers turning out for this year's event on October 24th. Not only did volunteers participate in food drives and clean ups, they also participated in poverty simulations and transportation surveys, the results of which will aid in the development of the Pathways Past Poverty initiative.

The H1N1 virus is on everyone's mind as the flu season begins to gear up. Jade Thomas, the Disaster Prep Liaison VISTA for the Pueblo City and County Health Department, has assumed an active role in H1N1 planning and clinics in Pueblo County. Jade's primary focus is making information, vaccinations, and health care available to special populations in Pueblo, including those living in poverty.

To learn more about poverty simulations or Pathways Past Poverty please contact Amanda Helfer at vcvista@uwaylc.org.

InterCorps Council Colorado Update

InterCorps Council Colorado (ICC) made its first appearance in over eight years at the 2009 State Service Conference. ICC is a member-driven group whose mission is to serve as a resource and support system for Colorado's national service members. Brochures and activities were prepared to inform and energize national service members about the ICC mission and goals.



An informational conference call was held on October 29th with the goal of further informing national service members on what ICC is and how they can get involved. A follow up questionnaire was sent out after the call asking the question: "As a national service member, what is the most important ICC can do for you?" The overwhelming response has been: to create a network that will connect national service members across all branches in the state of Colorado.

ICC will be operating a planning committee beginning in January 2010. The goal of the planning committee will be to take input from national service members and create a comprehensive, sustainable ICC.

For more information and updates visit the ICC webpage: <http://www.colorado.gov/gccs/icc.htm>.

2009-2010 Colorado AmeriCorps*State Programs

**ACE Colorado Youth Leadership Initiative-
AmeriCorps Program**
America's Children's Education Foundation
719.583.7860

**Boys and Girls Club Outreach and Enrichment
Initiative**
Boys and Girls Club of Larimer County
Statewide • 719.580.0379

CENTUS Healthy Family Initiative
Centus Counseling, Consulting & Education
Denver, CO • 303.639.5240

Colorado Asset Building Coalition Project
Advocates for Young Adults
Denver, CO • 720.363.5131

Colorado HIPPY Corps
Colorado Parent and Child Foundation
Statewide • 303.860.6000

**Colorado Youth Corps Education Awards
Program**
Colorado Youth Corps Association
Statewide • 303.860.6000

**Colorado Youth Corps Leadership &
Conservation Program**
Year One Inc., dba Mile High Youth Corps
Statewide • 303.433.1206

Community Partnerships for Youth in Transition
City and County of Denver
Denver, CO • 720.944-1006

Energize La Plata
Southern Ute Community Action Program
Durango, CO 970.563.4517, ext. 208

Mesa State College AmeriCorps Program
Mesa State College
Grand Junction, CO • 970.248.1874

PCC AmeriCorps Program
Pueblo Community College
Pueblo, CO 719.549.3244

**Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Program
(RSAPP/SCYC) AmeriCorps Program**
Montezuma County Partners
Cortez, CO • 970.529.7139

**Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps
Program**
United Methodist Church of Center
Center, CO • 719.256.4662

The School Based Mentoring Program
Partners in Routt County
Steamboat, CO • 970.879.6141

Urban Education Service Corps
Denver Public Schools
Denver, CO • 720.839.2473

Weld County Youth Conservation Corps
Board of Weld County Commissioners
Greeley, CO • 970.353.3800, ext. 3362

GCCS Unveils New Program to Assist Job Seekers



ActionWorks is a statewide program, announced by the Governor's Commission on Community Service, with the aim to strengthen the link between workforce and volunteer centers in order to better serve the job seeking community. The program has been in development as a part of the Commission's goal to utilize volunteer opportunities to help job seekers expand their experience and enhance their skills.

Currently, the program is developing a toolkit to provide the information and steps necessary for centers to engage others in the volunteering employability agenda. ActionWorks hopes to increase the awareness of utilizing volunteering as a useful job seeking strategy.

ActionWorks is also being promoted through various career fairs and volunteer fairs. ActionWorks will be participating in the following upcoming career fairs:

- ✓ December 3, 2009 – Summit High School Career Fair
- ✓ February 9, 2010 – 2010 Career & Internship Information Fair, Lowe Campus

For more information about the ActionWorks Program, please contact Ele Meyer at Eleanor.Meyer@state.co.us

Colorado Celebrates the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning

The Governor's Commission on Community Service is adding the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning to the state's service initiative. The Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning will be Friday, March 26, 2010. The Commission, along with Colorado's Cesar Chavez Day Committee, will recognize the legacy of Cesar Chavez. Planning is underway to celebrate and educate communities about the life of Cesar Chavez.

In March of 2008, then Presidential Candidate, Senator Barack Obama issued a statement about Cesar Chavez:

"Chavez left a legacy as an educator, environmentalist, and a civil rights leader. And his cause lives on. As farm workers and laborers across America continue to struggle for fair treatment and fair wages, we find strength in what Cesar Chavez accomplished so many years ago. And we should honor him for what he's taught us about making America a stronger, more just, and more prosperous nation... It's time to recognize the contributions of this American icon to the ongoing efforts to perfect our union."

Project registration will become available in January 2010 at www.colorado.gov/gccs. The GCCS encourages groups, businesses, and organizations to begin preparing service projects and other opportunities that volunteers to participate in. For more information, contact Meaghan Mills at meaghan.mills@state.co.us.



AmeriCorps Colorado Spotlight



Weld County Youth Conservation Corps works in Weld County communities. They focus on conservation, restoration, and community service. The WCYCC work crews consists of twelve corps members, ages 17 to 24, and one staff crew leader.

In addition to completing service projects that directly assist communities in areas of identified need, WCYCC operates as a vehicle to develop job experience, communication skills, and service and work ethics in the corps members. Studies conducted by ABT Associates show that youth corps have a significant impact on both communities and youth. The study shows that youth corps:

- Yield \$1.04 in monetary benefit above the cost for each hour of service members perform.
- Produce over \$13.24 worth of services per program hour (Based upon information from the City of Greeley, WCYCC saved the city in excess of \$250,000 in 1998).
- Provide corps members with increased earning potential over that of comparable youth.
- Members are less likely to be arrested.

To accomplish both the service projects for the community, and to develop tangible job and life skills in the members, WCYCC relies on a team effort developed over the years by WCYCC and other youth corps models. For more information about the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps, please contact Erik Warrington at (970) 353-3800, ext 3436.

From the Commission Chair

Greetings Friends in Service,

I would like to begin by saying that it is an honor to have been elected as the new Chair of the Governor's Commission on Community Service. Following in the footsteps of Christine Benero's excellent example of leadership and character is a tough act to follow. I am both grateful of the advancements the Commission has experienced under her guidance, and challenged to continue to provide an equal level of direction. Furthermore, to be chosen from among a group of dedicated Commissioners that work so hard and give so much of themselves is truly humbling. I thank you for this opportunity.

In Colorado, these are very exciting times with regard to community service, civic engagement, and volunteerism. Colorado is witnessing levels of activism and engagement not seen in decades. As our nation confronts economic hurdles, Coloradans are addressing these challenges by volunteering their time and efforts at increasing rates. It is inspiring to see first hand how our communities come together in times of need.

Colorado is very fortunate to also have excellent partners in National Service programs like Senior Corps, AmeriCorps State/National, AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Learn and Serve. One of my goals for the Governor's Commission is to increase our outreach to old and new partners alike and bring more associates to the table. Through thoughtful collaboration, we can help more people and achieve greater impacts throughout the state.

I thank you all for all that you give and I look forward to working with you. By working together, I believe that we can accomplish great things.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Morgan Tracy
Chair, Governor's Commission on Community Service



Please forward this newsletter to your own lists and partners,
and encourage people to sign up for Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.'s Newsletter at:
<http://www.colorado.gov/governor>



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Governor's Commission on Community Service is currently developing the 2010-2012 Colorado Comprehensive State Service Plan. The Commission has issued the draft plan for review and comment, and your suggestions are welcome.

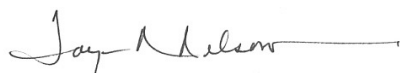
This plan outlines community service strategy for Colorado for 2010, 2011 and 2012, establishes program goals and objectives, and sets the implementation framework for the new Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The plan also lays the foundation and process for GCCS, with partner agencies, to establish a plan for creating the Plan for Service by Adults Age 55 and Older.

Federal regulations require that each state commission prepare a national service plan for the state that is developed through an open and public process. The plan must outline how service and volunteering will be used in the state as strategies to meet critical community needs.

This draft plan incorporates the critical community needs and service strategies outlined in 2009 *Colorado Needs Assessment Report on Community Service, Volunteerism and Civic Engagement*. New this year is the requirement that state commissions develop a service plan for service by adults, age 55 and older. The plan process for that plan is also incorporated in the draft comprehensive state service plan.

Please visit our website at www.colorado.gov/gccs to download a draft of the State Service Plan. We welcome your participation and input, and will consider your suggestions as part of the final document. If you have any questions please let us know. Comments should be sent to toya.nelson@state.co.us by **November 30, 2009**.

Many thanks to all of you for your service,



Toya M. Nelson
Executive Director
Governor's Commission on Community Service



MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

To honor life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., bring the King Day of Service to your community and help us expand the number of projects that take place across Colorado and the US every year. Connect your service to the life and teachings of Dr. King.

Register a service project
or locate a project to participate in by visiting:

www.colorado.gov/gccs

For more information about the MLK Jr. Day of Service, call 303.866.6426.

Presented by the Governor's Commission on Community Service

